

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 01918 091759Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

HA-05 /064 W

-----036924 101008Z /23

R 091440Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2578

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PGOV, GH

SUBJ: ARREST OF OPPOSITION POLITICIAN

1. GODFREY AMARTEIFIO, PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR AND

FOURTH-RANKING MAN IN PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT FOR FREEDOM AND JUSTICE (A GROUP OPPOSED TO HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG), WAS ARRESTED AT SOCCER GAME IN ACCRA ON MARCH 5. ACCORDING TO PRESS RELEASE BY PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT, HE WAS ARRESTED BECAUSE HE WAS HOLDING A BRIEFCASE FULL OF "NO" SYMBOLS --

1. EXHORTATIONS TO CITIZENS TO VOTE "NO" ON ACHEAMPONG'S UNION GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL AT MARCH 30 REFERENDUM.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AMARTEIFIO'S FRIENDS HOPE TO GET HIM OUT OF JAIL BEFORE REFERENDUM BUT ARE NOT CONFIDENT THEY WILL SUCCEED. THEY HAVE REPORTEDLY COMPLAINED TO ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER JUSTICE I.K. ABBAN, ASSERTING THAT IT IS NOT AN OFFENSE TO CARRY OR DISPLAY SUCH SYMBOLS. THEY HAVE ALSO COMPLAINED TO HIGH COURT.

3. COMMENT: TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO OTHER LEADERS OF PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE AMAREIFIO'S DETENTION IS AN ISOLATED INCIDENT
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RATHER THAN PART OF A NEW PLAN BY ACHEAMPONG REGIME TO ROUND UP OPPOSITION LEADERS BEFORE REFERENDUM. IN ANY CASE, AMARTEIFIO HAS BEEN AN EFFECTIVE PR MAN FOR PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT AND HIS ABSENCE WILL BE FELT IF HE IS KEPT OUT OF CIRCULATION UNTIL MARCH 30.
SMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Film Number: D780107-1051
Format: TEL
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780390/aaaacxxi.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3396725
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARREST OF OPPOSITION POLITICIAN
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PGOV, GH, (AMARTEIFIO, GODFREY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/04e30fcb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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